Flood Protection Corridor Program

Project Evaluation Criteria

And Competitive Grant Application Form

I. Introduction

Grant funds under the Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) of the Costa Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) are available to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations from the Department of Water Resources. Funds will be used to pursue FPCP goals, which are to provide "for the protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors through all of the following actions:

"(1) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing the agricultural use of the real property.

"(2) Setting back existing flood control levees and, in conjunction with undertaking those setbacks, strengthening or modifying existing levees.

"(3) Acquiring interests in real property from willing sellers located in a floodplain that can not reasonably be made safe from future flooding.

"(4) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers to protect or enhance flood protection corridors while preserving or enhancing the wildlife value of the real property."

-- *[Water Code, Chapter 5, Article 2.5, Section 79037(b)]*

The following information constitutes the basis for determining whether a proposed project meets the legal criteria for funding under the Flood Protection Corridor Program and for evaluating the proposal to determine its priority in competition with all concurrent proposals. Proposals qualified under Section III of these criteria will be placed on one of two priority lists. If the proposal serves a flood protection need that is a high priority with the Department of Water Resources (other than through this Program) and it also rates a high priority *either* with the Department of Conservation for purposes of preserving agricultural land under the California Farmland Conservancy Program, *or* with the Department of Fish and Game for purposes of wildlife habitat or restoration, it will be placed on the "A List". All other qualified projects will be placed on the "B List". "A List" projects will be funded first, and when all "A List" projects have been funded to the Department's stated limit, "B List" projects will be funded.

II. General Information

Project Name: Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project

Project Location: Sun Valley Park and Recreation Center
8133 Vineland Avenue, Sun Valley, CA 91352 County: Los Angeles

Name and address of sponsoring agency or non-profit organization:
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Name of Project Manager (contact): Vik Bapna

Phone Number: (626) 458-4363 E-mail Address: vbapna@ladpw.org

Grant Request Amount: $3,000,000

_____ _____

Project Manager Title

_____

Date

Project Objective(s): Briefly describe your project and explain how it will advance FPCP goals. Please also include a detailed map of the immediate project site and another that shows its location within your geographical area. Photographs showing problem areas proposed to be enhanced by the project should also be included.

The Sun Valley Park and Recreation Center site (NE San Fernando Valley, L.A. County as shown on Figures 1 and 2) presents an opportunity to mitigate the severe flooding conditions, while increasing wildlife habitat, water conservation, and recreational opportunities, and reducing stormwater pollution. The entire highly urbanized Sun Valley area suffers chronic flooding, due to sprawl and lack of infrastructure, even during moderate rainfall. The pictures below illustrate the flooding conditions in this area from moderate rains dating back from at least the 1970's.

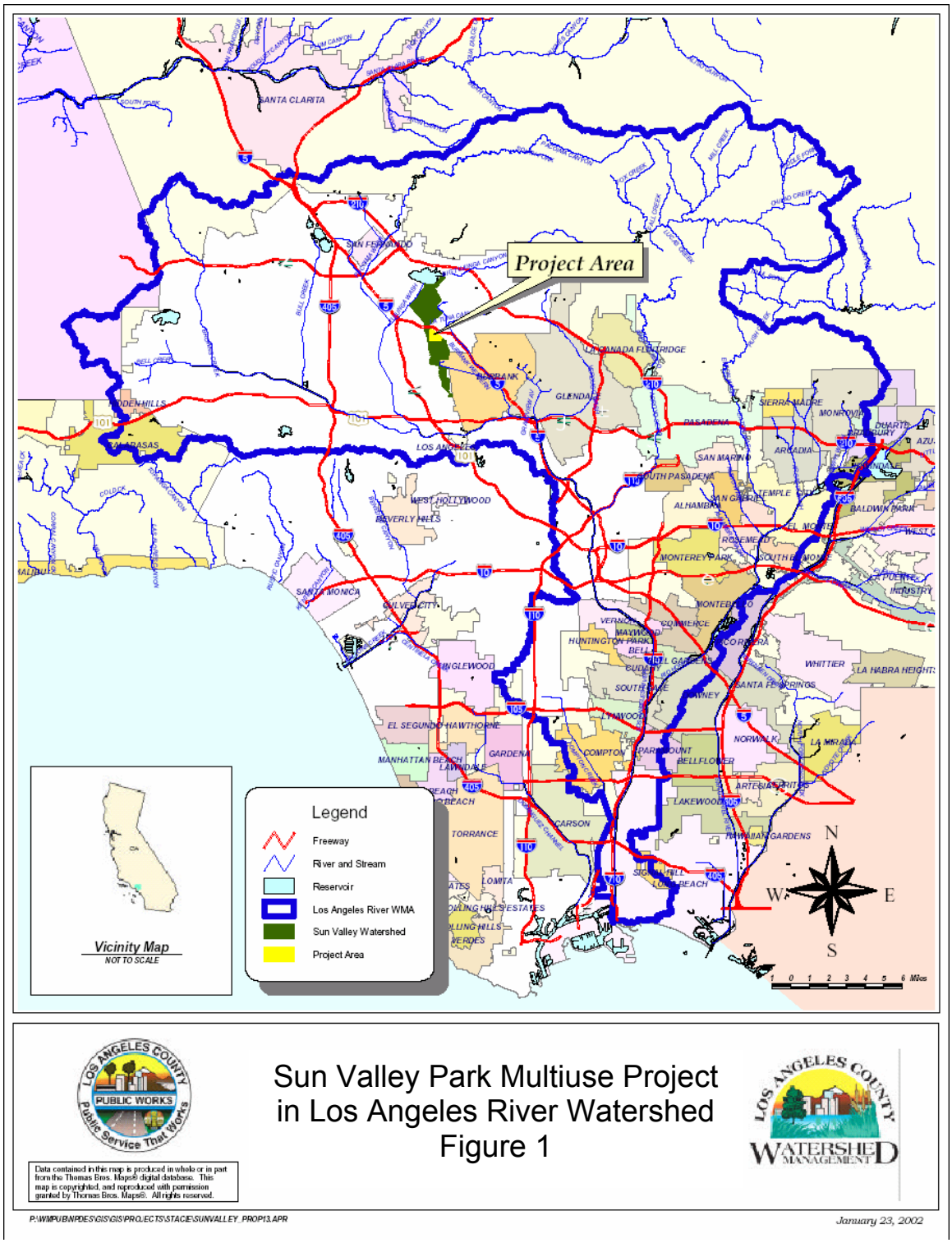
The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) recently began pursuing a watershed-wide retrofit in accordance with best management practices in lieu of constructing a $42 million storm drain to solve the flooding problem. Thus, the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group (SVWSG) was formed in November of 1998 with a mission of "solving the local flooding problem while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution." This group consists of multiple agencies, local and state elected officials, property owner organizations, chamber of commerce, environmental groups, schools, and parents. With the help of the SVWSG, the overall Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is currently being developed.

The Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project is part of the overall plan and will be the first watershed management project implemented in the Sun Valley Watershed. The project will serve as a pilot demonstration for subsequent projects, so its success is critical to the implementation of the overall plan and the realization of the SVWSG's mission.

The proposed project shifts away from the traditional, structural solution to flooding – storm drains – towards a more natural approach of allowing the stormwater runoff to percolate into the ground as it would in a natural watershed. The project, together with replicate projects throughout L.A., would also allow for less structural flood control measures in the receiving body, the L.A. River, by reducing its needed capacity.

With efficient resource management in mind, the project will also provide for wildlife habitat enhancements and water table recharge, advancing multiple FPCP goals.

The project is designed to collect the upstream stormwater runoff and convey it to two underground treatment units and two underground infiltration basins for groundwater recharge (see Figure 3: Plan View). The project also incorporates a vegetative swale that will collect flows from an adjacent street and from the site (see Figure 4: Swale Plan View). The surface of the site will be enhanced with recreational and habitat opportunities. Overall, the project will effectively reduce flooding by capturing the upstream flows, thereby eliminating or decreasing the downstream flows.


Project Area
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Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project
in Los Angeles River Watershed
Figure 1
Data contained in this map is produced in whole or in part from the Thomas Bros. Maps® digital database. This map is copyrighted, and reproduced with permission granted by Thomas Bros. Maps®. All rights reserved.
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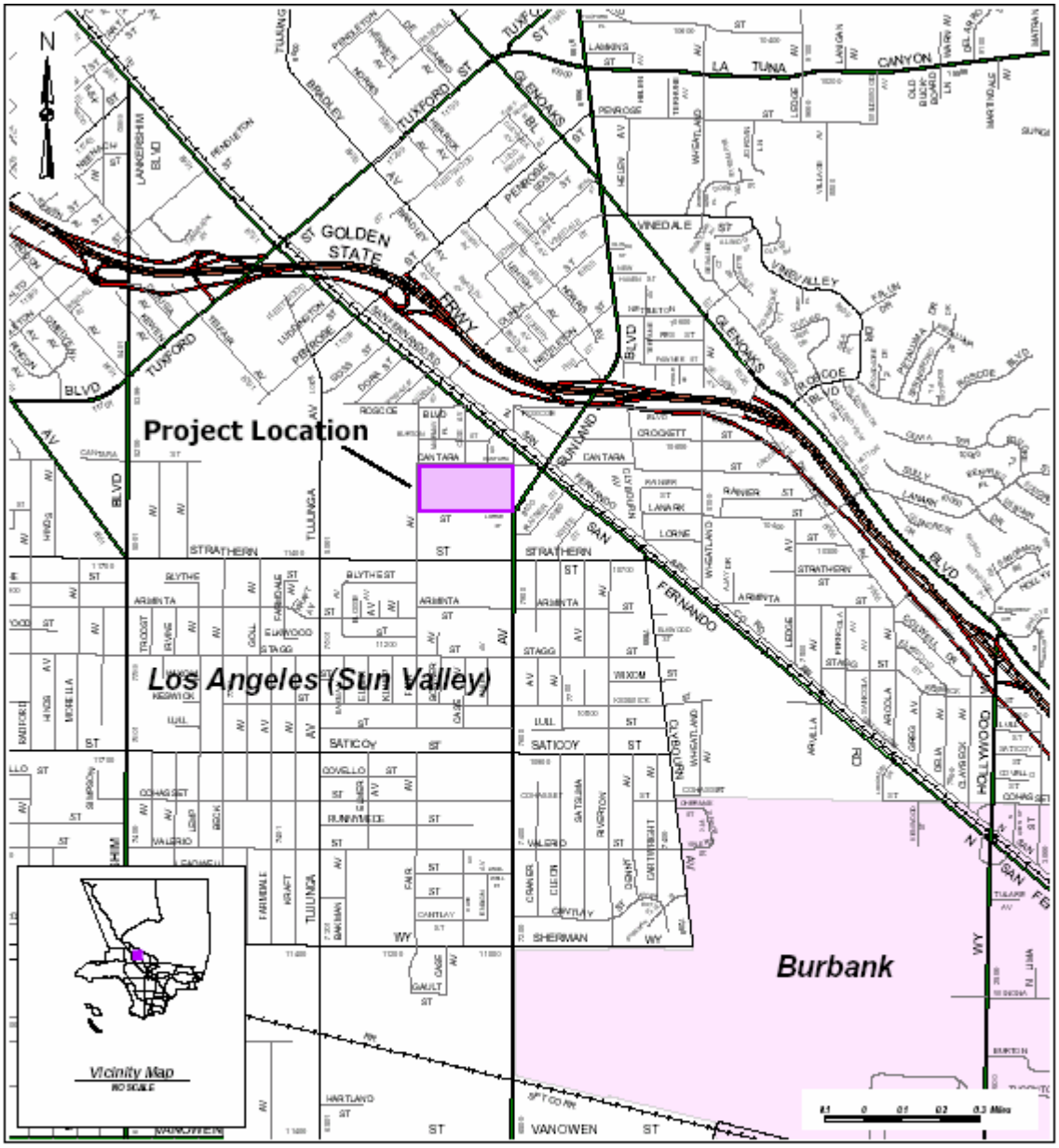
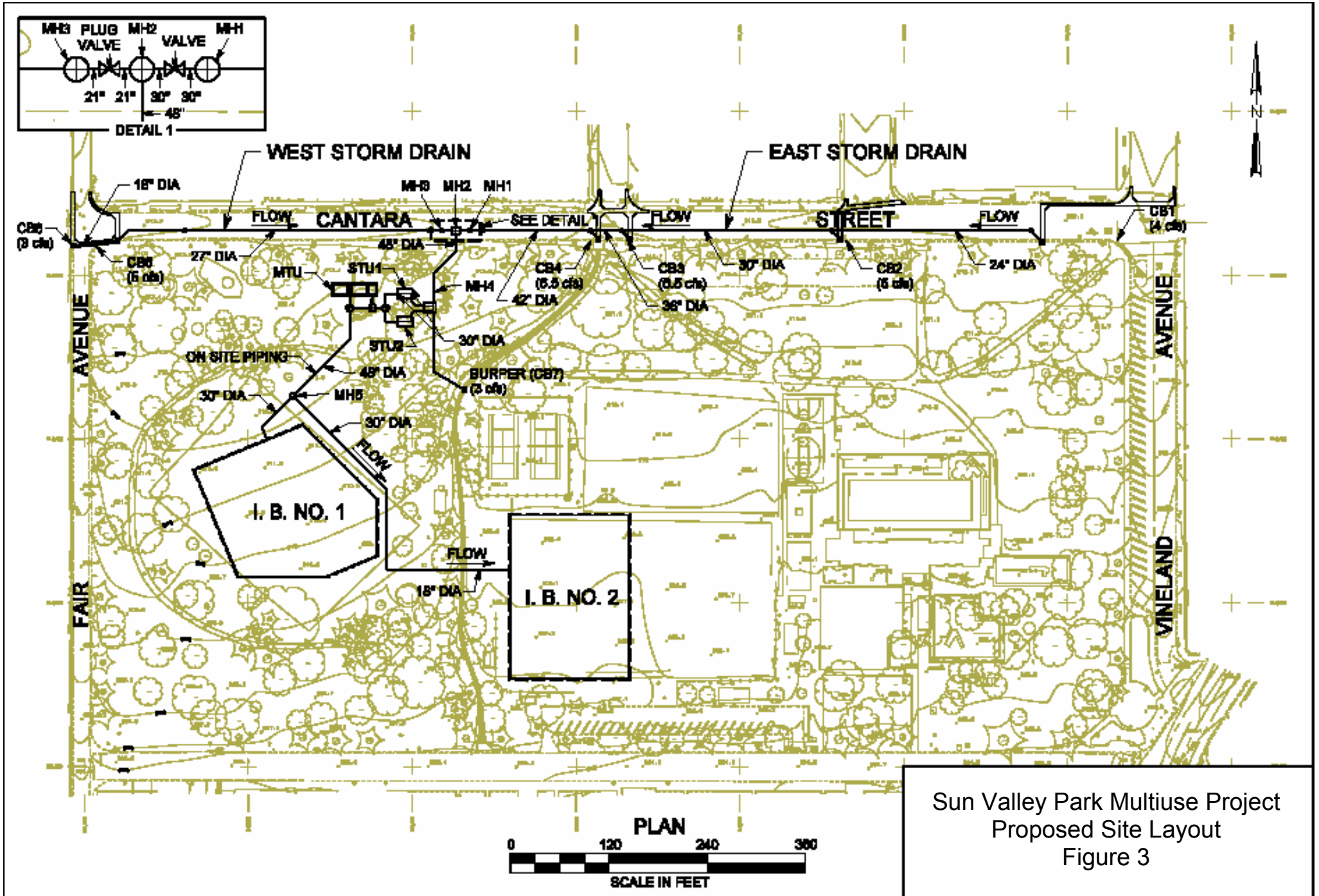


Sun Valley Park Multiuse
Project Location
Figure 2



Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project
Proposed Site Layout
Figure 3

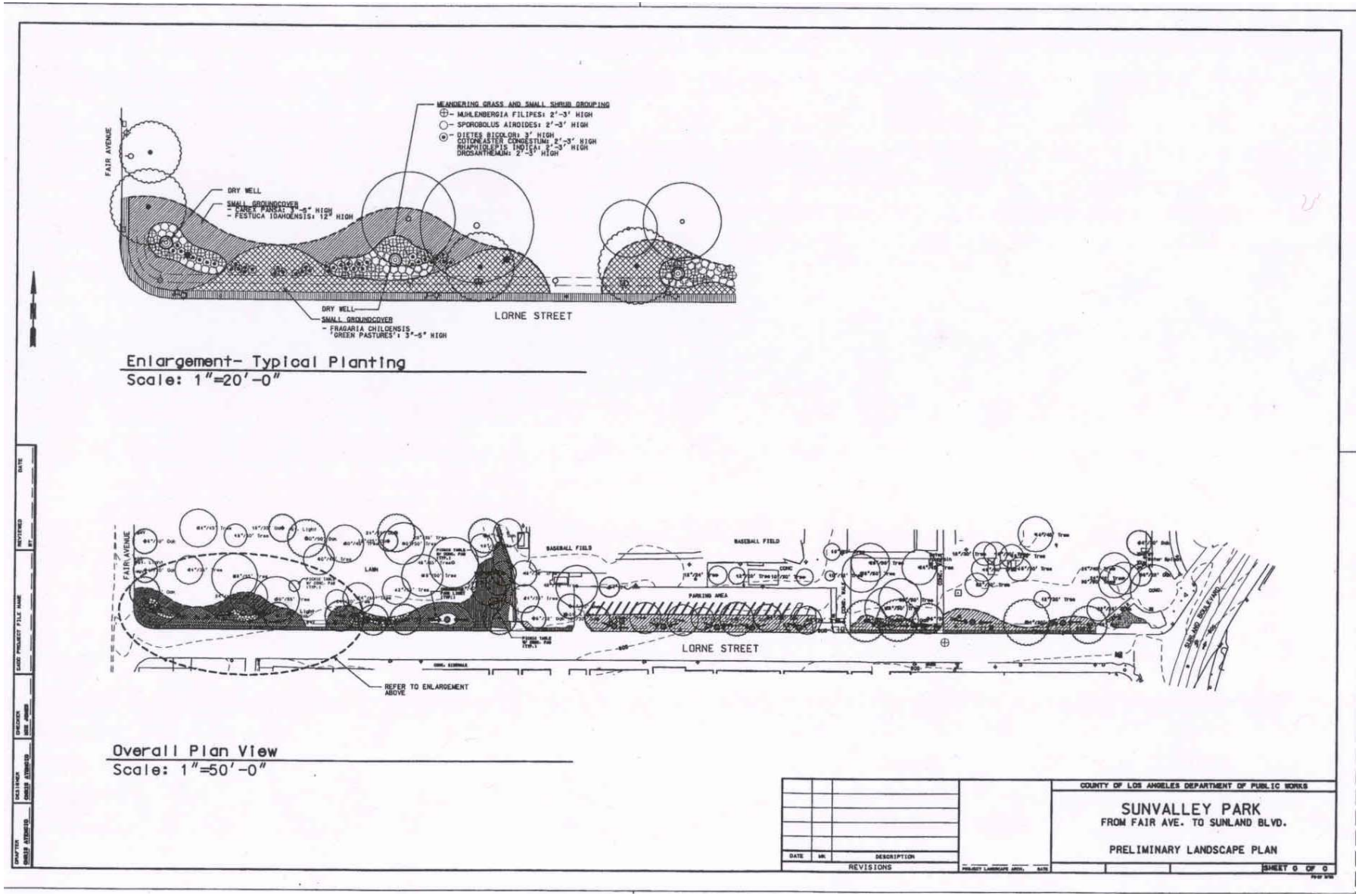


Figure 4: Swale Preliminary Landscape Plan

***To be complete, an application package must include all of the items specified in the proposed Section 497.7 of Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, that is available on the FPCP web site (www.dfm.water.ca.gov/fpcp) by selecting the Regulations link. (See Attachment E for additional items)**

III. Minimum Qualifications

Project proposals that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be accepted.

A. ☐ The project proposes to use any granted funds for protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors *[Water Code Section 79037(b)]*.

B. ☐ A local public agency, a non-profit organization, or a joint venture of local public agencies, non-profit organizations, or both proposes the project *[Water Code Section 79037(a)]*.

C. ☐ The project will use the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps whenever feasible *[Water Code Section 79038(b)]*.

D. ☐ If it is proposed to acquire property in fee to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing agricultural use, the proponent has considered and documented all practical alternatives to acquisition of fee interest *[Water Code Section 79039(a)]*.

E. ☐ Holders of property interests proposed to be acquired are willing to sell them *[Water Code Section 79040]*.

F. ☐ If it is proposed to acquire property interests, the proposal describes how a plan will be developed that evaluates and minimizes the impact on adjacent landowners prior to such acquisition and evaluates the impact on the following *[Water Code Section 79041]*:

- ►Floodwaters including water surface elevations and flow velocities
- ►The structural integrity of affected levees
- ►Diversion facilities
- ►Customary agricultural husbandry practices
- ►Timber extraction operations

The proposal must also describe maintenance required for a) the acquired property, b) any facilities that are to be constructed or altered.

G. ☐ The project site is located at least partially in one of the following:

1. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or

2. An area that would be inundated if the project were completed and an adjacent FEMA SFHA were inundated, or
3. A FEMA SFHA, which is determined by using the detailed methods identified in FEMA Publication 37, published in January 1995, titled "Flood Insurance Study Guidelines and Specifications for Study Contractors", or

4. A floodplain designated by The Reclamation Board under Water Code Section 8402(f) *[Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Section 497.5(a)],* or a

5. Locally designated Flood Hazard Area, with credible hydrologic data to support designation of at lease one in 100 annual probability of flood risk. This is applicable to locations without levees, or where existing levees can be set back, breached, or removed. In the latter case, levee setbacks, removal, or breaching to allow inundation of the floodplain should be part of the project.

*The Applicant, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, on behalf of the County Flood Control District, hereby verifies that the Applicant has read the above requirements and meets them.

IV. (340 points) Flood Protection Benefits

A. Existing and potential urban development in the floodplain (50)

1. Describe the existing and potential urban development at the site and the nature of the flood risk.

Urban Development

The Sun Valley area in general is an under-served community with active gravel mines and landfills, numerous auto-dismantling operators, and other industrial and commercial land uses making up more than 60 percent of the watershed. The watershed consists of only two neighborhood parks and one public library.

The project site is located at one of the neighborhood parks, which is immediately surrounded by land uses of residential, retail/commercial, and a gravel pit (see Figure 5: Aerial Photograph). If or when the adjacent pit is filled to the existing street level, it will most likely be developed into a commercial or industrial site. However, the success of the proposed project may influence the development of this pit into a similar multiuse flood control and habitat enhancement facility.

Flood Risk

With heavy urbanization and development, and a lack of storm drains throughout the entire Sun Valley Watershed, even relatively light storms causes flooding in the area. The below picture illustrates the street conditions during just a 5-year frequency rainfall event this rainy season (12/2002).

The abundance of impervious surfaces and limited infiltration or storage opportunities causes incremental flooding as the stormwater runoff travels downstream. The project site currently receives the upstream flooding and contributes to downstream flooding. There is a flooding potential for this site and the downstream area with even just a moderate rain (see Attachment A for documentation).

Figure 5: Project Site Aerial Photograph (2002)

2. How often has flooding occurred historically?

The community is subject to chronic flooding conditions present in the watershed for well over 30 years. The recognition of a need for some type of flood alleviation for the Sun Valley area dates back from at least the 1970 Storm Drain Bond Issue Program (see Attachment B: letters of documenting the flooding problem). Fortunately for watershed management efforts, the single purpose storm drain was never funded. However, unfortunately for the

Sun Valley community, the area flooded with almost every rainy season for the past 30 or more years.

3. Discuss the importance of improving the flood protection at this location. Include the number of people and structures that are affected by the flood hazard, and the flood impacts to highways and roads, railroads, airports and other infrastructure, and agriculture.

The flood protection provided by the project would affect the highly urbanized downstream areas. The runoff to be collected by the proposed project currently aggravates flooding along Vineland Avenue until the sump condition at Vineland Avenue and the railroad just north of Vanowen Street (see Figure 2: project map). Vineland Avenue is a major and heavily used 6-lane street in Sun Valley. Flooding along this street contributes to a portion of at least a 20 percent drop of attendance at local schools during the rainy season (City of L.A.). Vineland Avenue is also adjacent to the Burbank Airport.

The flood reduction accomplished by the proposed project would benefit approximately 18,000 residents (Census 2000), 1.2 million travelers (City of L.A. Transportation Section), 36,000 existing and potential park users, and about 135 structures, including homes and businesses.

The picture below illustrates the road conditions in and around the Sun Valley area during a 5-year frequency rainfall (12/2002).

B. Flood damage reduction benefits of the project (100)

1. Does the proposed project provide for transitory storage of floodwaters? What is the total community need for transitory storage related to this water course and what percentage of the total need does this project satisfy? What is the volume of water and how long is it detained?

With limited space and resources in the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles, transitory storage is not as practical as infiltration basins. An infiltration basin, similar to transitory storage, provides for flood protection, but it also provides the extra benefits of increased water quality enhancements and groundwater recharge.

The proposed multiuse project consists of underground infiltration basins, which free up the surface of the site to be used for both recreational and habitat enhancements. The annual average volume of water collected by the project is about 40 acre-ft and will be retained in an underground aquifer for future water supply uses.

2. Describe any structural and non-structural flood damage reduction elements of the project. (Examples of structural elements are levees, weirs, detention/retention basins, rock slope-protection, etc. Examples of non-structural elements are acquisition of property for open space, acquisition of land for flood flow easements, transitory storage, relocation of structures and other flood prone development, elevating flood prone structures, flood proofing structures, etc.)

A vegetative swale at the south edge of the project site will collect a portion of the site's runoff, as well as any flow along the adjacent street (Case Street). The swale will collect runoff from the street via cut curbs and from the site by utilizing the site's existing contours (see Figure 4: swale preliminary layout). This feature will provide flood control, habitat enhancements, and community beautification benefits as seen in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Potential Rendering

In addition, catch basins and small storm drains would collect the upstream stormwater runoff and convey it to two underground sediment treatment units, a metals treatment unit (for the first 3/4 inches of runoff), and two underground infiltration basins for percolation into the groundwater (see Figure 3: plan view). Although a few of these items may seem structural in nature, these features actually allow for the reduction - and partially the elimination - of a very structural 9 ft by 9 ft traditional storm drain (reinforced concrete box) snaking through Sun Valley. These features also assist in retrofitting the urbanized area into a more natural state by allowing the rainfall to infiltrate into the ground (as it would in an undeveloped watershed) instead of flowing over hard surfaces into a storm drain.

3. *By what methods and by how much dollar value will the project decrease expected average annual flood damages?*

An average flood (1-year frequency rainfall) would cause limited to no flood damages to the properties downstream of the project. However, if the flood damages from a higher intensity rainfall are averaged throughout the years, an estimated average annual flood damage dollar value avoided by the implementation of the project could be calculated and would be approximately $35,000/year. This is accomplished by capturing the flows upstream of the project site, thereby reducing the downstream flows – the downstream flood damages.

4. How does the project affect the hydrologic and hydraulic conditions at the project site and adjacent properties?

a) *Will the project reduce the magnitude of a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?*

As shown on the Street Flooding Analysis worksheet (see Attachment C), the project will reduce the magnitude of flooding downstream of the site from "above the property line" to "below the property line" along a portion of Vineland Avenue. The property protected along this portion amounts to an assessed value of about $3.3 million. Although the runoff generated from subareas outside the scope of the proposed project will continue to flood Vineland Avenue further downstream to "above the property line," the magnitude of this flooding and its subsequent property damage will be reduced by the project (about a 40 cubic feet per second flow reduction). This will be accomplished by eliminating the incremental flow that would aggravate the downstream flooding.

The critical success of this project will also spur implementation of other flood reduction multiuse projects, which will accomplish a more extensive cumulative decrease on the magnitude of flood flow.

b) What are the effects of the project on water surface elevations during a flood event, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

During a FEMA 100-year flood (County Capital Flood: 50-year frequency rainfall), the project will reduce the water elevation in some residential streets by about a foot.

c) How are flow velocities impacted by the project during a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

Based on the Street Flooding Analysis (Attachment C), the project would decrease the downstream flood flow by about 40 cubic feet per second (18,000 gal/min) during a Capital Flood. Using typical street and property dimensions and elevations, this flow equates to approximately four miles/hour. Flow velocities of this magnitude results in multiple stalled vehicles, property and street erosion, and heavy sediment transport.

C. Restoration of natural processes (60)

1. ***Describe how any natural channel processes will be restored (for example: for channel meander, sediment transport, inundation of historic floodplain, etc.) and describe how these natural processes will affect flood management and adjacent properties.***

   Currently, the L.A. River – the project's receiving water body - is lined with concrete to support the massive amounts of stormwater runoff flows generated by excessive urbanization. With the increase of development in L.A., the flood protection necessary to support this development also increases, leading to such projects like the $220 million LACDA (Los Angeles County Drainage Area) project. The LACDA project involved extending the height of the walls of the concrete river to reduce the risk of flooding for the nearby residents.

   The use of the traditional storm drain approach for flood control in urbanized areas like Sun Valley, would eventually add to more concrete in the River. Storm drains in urban areas would also not allow the stormwater runoff to replenish the groundwater supply as it would in a natural watershed. Thus, in an effort to revert back to a more natural process, Public Works formed the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group (SVWSG), who developed the mission of "solving the local flooding problem while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution."

   The Park Multiuse Project is a direct result of the SVWSG. Its implementation would provide increased infiltration opportunities for the stormwater runoff as would be available in a natural process. The proposed project, along with future duplicate projects throughout L.A., would eventually decrease the needed capacity of the L.A. River to the point where the river could perhaps one day revert back to a more natural process without a concrete lining.

2. ***Describe any upstream or downstream hydraulic or other effects (such as bank erosion or scour, sediment transport, growth inducement, etc.).***

   The downstream hydraulic effects from the project would be effectively reduced flooding. This reduction in downstream flow would in turn achieve decreased sediment transport, decreased road degradation, decreased stormwater runoff pollution transport, decreased property erosion, and a decrease in the necessary capacity of the L.A. River.

3. ***If the project includes channel modification or bank protection work, will riprap or dredging be part of the design? If so, provide an analysis of potential benefits and impacts.***

   Not Applicable.

D. Project effects on the local community (60)

1. ***How will the project impact future flooding on and off this site?***

   Flooding at the project site and the immediate downstream street will be eliminated for up to a FEMA 100-year flood. This will allow for increased use of the Sun Valley Park and Recreation Center during the rainy season and ease of transportation in the affected downstream roads. With the reduction of flow in the streets, the school attendance at the nearby Middle School will increase. The reduction in flood hazard, property damage, and nuisance flow will potentially result in improved business along the affected streets.

   Safety will also be increased with not only a reduction in flood flows, but also with the improvements in water quality. Since the project captures and treats the upstream flows, the pollutant load downstream will decrease, thereby also decreasing the health risks associated with the polluted runoff.

   The project will effectively reduce the "river" along Vineland Street and improve the overall quality of life for the Sun Valley community.

2. ***How will the project affect emergency evacuation routes or emergency services and demands for emergency services?***

   During the rainy season, the project's reduction in flows will improve the road conditions of the affected downstream streets. The improved conditions will enable faster and safer evacuation in case of an emergency.

   The community outreach component of the project will assist in educating the community members about emergency preparedness and available emergency services. The community will learn what they can do against a threat of an emergency situation. For example, a community member could learn how to prepare against a flash flood, including what emergency supplies to attain, where to get sandbags, and how to use the sandbags. This education could potentially reduce the demands for emergency services.

3. ***Explain how the project will comply with the local community floodplain management ordinance and the floodplain management criteria specified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA's NFIP).***

   The project is not within an official FEMA flood zone, but the hydrology and historical data of flooding as shown in the about items illustrates that this area should be a FEMA flood zone. We will notify the City of L.A. of the flood hazard in this area, who will in turn notify the residents and develop a flood hazard mitigation plan or process. The project will then comply with any future floodplain management criteria to be yet developed by the City of L.A.

E. Value of improvements protected (70)

1. ***What is the assessed value of structural improvements that will be protected by the project?***

   According to the Property Boundaries and Ownership database provided by the City of Los Angeles, the assessed value of structural improvements that will be protected by the project is approximately $20,900,000. As established by the street flooding analysis of the County of Los Angeles 50 year frequency rainfall flows (similar to the FEMA 100-year flood), the structures protected by the project include those along Strathern Street and Vineland Avenue.

2. ***What is the estimated replacement value of any flood control facilities or structures protected by the project?***

   There are no flood control facilities or structures near the immediate project location. However, by capturing the stormwater runoff, the project will reduce the needed capacity of the receiving body (the Los Angeles River) and therefore somewhat protect the facilities along the river. This will be especially apparent with large-scale replication of this proposed pilot project.

V. (340 points) Wildlife and Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Proponent should provide a statement of the relative importance of the project's wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits. DWR will use the statement and all other project materials to assign a fraction of the total benefits to each type (wildlife (F_w) or agricultural land conservation (F_a)) so that the fractions total unity. Actual points scored for each type of resource will be multiplied by the respective fraction for each resource, and the wildlife and agricultural scores resulting for each type of resource will be added together.

A. (340xF_w points) Wildlife Benefits

Habitat values refer to the ecological value and significance of the habitat features at this location that presently occur, have occurred historically, or will occur after restoration.

Viability refers to the site's ability, after restoration if necessary, to remain ecologically viable with minimal on-site management over the long-term, and to be able to recover from any natural catastrophic disturbances (fire, floods, etc.).

A1. Importance of the site to regional ecology (70)

1. ***Describe any habitat linkages, ecotones, corridors, or other buffer zones within or adjacent to the site. How are these affected by the project?***

   The densely urbanized Sun Valley area currently lacks habitat opportunities, making the additions of habitat within the proposed project even more beneficial and valuable.

   However, as stated previously, the proposed project is a part of a long-range plan for a multi-purpose flood control/storm water management program for the entire Sun Valley Watershed (WMP). One of the objectives of the WMP is to increase wildlife habitat within Sun Valley Watershed by designing storm water management facilities (e.g. storm water retention basins and treatment wetlands) to also serve as wildlife habitat areas. Since the WMP consists of multiple project components, including Sun Valley Park, it provides future opportunities to create habitat linkages throughout the watershed.

   The project location lies along the Pacific Flyway.

2. ***Is the site adjacent to any existing conservation areas?***

   Sun Valley Watershed is located in the vicinity of Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Bank (located in Big Tujunga Wash, just downstream of the 210 Freeway overcrossing). The Mitigation Bank is a 207-acre parcel

on Big Tujunga Wash purchased by County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works as mitigation for County flood control projects throughout the County. In coordination with local agencies, the County defined a number of measures to improve habitat quality at the site. A Master Mitigation Plan was prepared in 2000 and is currently being implemented. The primary goal of the Mitigation Plan is to establish breeding and foraging habitat for resident and migratory wildlife species associated with the riparian, alluvial scrub, and aquatic habitats.

However the immediate surrounding of the project site consists of high-density urbanization, which exemplifies the need for this project to add to the limited habitat opportunities in Southern California.

3. ***Describe any plans for aquatic restoration resulting in in-stream benefits.***

   Not Applicable.

4. ***Discuss any natural landscapes within the site that support representative examples of important, landscape-scale ecological functions (flooding, fire, sand transport, sediment trapping, etc.)?***

   Existing site conditions consist of general park landscape, including grass, trees, and recreational areas (active and passive). The current landscape has minimal impact to ecological functions.

   There are currently no high-density vegetation areas that would result in fire hazards. A concrete v-ditch runs through the park, conveying the upstream and park runoff, but does not sustain habitat. This v-ditch transports excess sediment and pollutant load downstream. The quick transport of flows also aggravates downstream flooding.

   The proposed project will promote ecological functions by providing a vegetative swale to replace the concrete v-ditch and to alleviate downstream flooding. In addition, the vegetative swale would include native landscaping to provide wildlife opportunities. The swale will also reduce sediment transport downstream and improve the stormwater runoff water quality.

   Additional habitat enhancements on the project site will be included in the project design.

A2. Diversity of species and habitat types (70)

1. Does the site possess any:

i. ***Areas of unique ecological and/or biological diversity?***

The project site is located within a densely urbanized area with limited open space and wildlife habitat. Therefore, any new or improved wildlife habitat created by the project would have substantial ecological value that would be unique to the local environment.

While existing level of biodiversity in the area is limited, the following species have the potential to occur in the watershed area:

Plants: Nevin's Barberry, Davidson's Bushmallow, Slender-Horned Spineflower, San Fernando Valley Spineflower, and Plummer's Mariposa Lily.

Animals: Western Spadefoot, Arroyo Southwestern Toad, Southwestern Pond Turtle, California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Coast Horned Lizard, and Orange-throated Whiptail.

The above list was part of the Sun Valley WMP Initial Study.

ii. Vegetative complexity either horizontally or vertically?

Existing site conditions includes sparse vegetative areas, consisting mainly of turf and scattered trees. The turf is of mixed types of weeds and is generally compacted soil conditions.

The proposed project will consist of diverse vegetative areas, including native grass areas (3 –5 inches), shrub groves (up to 3 feet high), and various large trees, such as oaks.

2. Describe habitat components including year-round availability of water, adequate nesting/denning areas, food sources, etc.

The vegetative swale component of the project would provide for year-round availability of water. The irrigation system at the project site would also assist in this effort. Although we are not yet at the design phase for the habitat enhancements portion of our project, when we get to that phase, we will work closely with a biologist and the site's maintenance staff to include possible food sources or other features to attract and sustain the desired habitat.

3. Describe any superior representative examples of specific species or habitats.

Currently, the site does not support significant species or habitats due to the lack of consistent native vegetation. From field visits, the only wildlife species identified include squirrels, house pets, and insects.

Specific native species and habitat opportunities will be provided by the project as described in item A2.1.i above. Again, with further consultation with a biologist and with testing of the existing soil condition, superior species and habitats will be considered in the project design.

4. Does the site contain a high number of species and habitat types? List and describe.

Currently, the site contains very limited number of species and habitat types. The proposed project habitat enhancements will, however, dramatically increase this number by retrofitting the site's surface to sustain a variety of species and habitat types.

5. Does the site contain populations of native species that exhibit important subspecies or genetic varieties historically present prior to European immigration?

Initial field visits by a landscape architect concluded in limited to no existing native species within the project site.

Public Works is currently working with an ecologist to identify the native species and subspecies historically present in the area as part of the development of the Los Angeles River Landscape Guidelines. The guidelines are expected to be completed by this summer (2003) and will contain a list of recommended landscaping features to promote native species. This recommendation will be applied to the project design.

A3. Ecological importance of species and habitat types (100)

1. ***Discuss the significance of habitat types at this location and include any local, regional, or statewide benefits received by preserving or improving the area.***

   There is minimal to no significance of habitat types currently at the location site. As a result, the current site does not contribute to any local, regional, or statewide habitat benefits.

   Habitat creation accomplished by the proposed project will be a part of a watershed-wide effort to introduce consistent habitat in the region. Successful implementation of the project will spur replicate habitat creation throughout first the region, and eventually state. This will achieve a significant cumulative benefit for the native California habitat.

2. ***Does the site contain any significant wintering, breeding, or nesting areas? Does it fall within any established migratory corridors? What is the level of significance? How are these affected by the project?***

   The site falls within the Pacific Flyway migratory corridor for a diverse range of birds. Currently the project does not play a significant role for this migratory corridor due to the lack of breeding or nesting areas and food sources.

   With the introduction of specific native habitat and the vegetative swale, the project site will be more significant to the migratory corridor.

3. ***Describe any existing habitats that support any sensitive, rare, "keystone" or declining species with known highly restricted distributions in the region or state. Does the site contain any designated critical habitat? How are these affected by the project?***

   The site does not currently contain habitat that support species described in the above question. However, the future habitat enhancements created by the project would provide for the opportunity to reintroduce native species such as those listed in item A2.1.i.

4. ***What is the amount of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) and riparian habitat to be developed, restored, or preserved?***

   Not applicable.

A4. Public benefits accrued from expected habitat improvements (60)

1. Describe present public use/access, if any. For instance, does or will the public have access for the purpose of wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, picnics, etc.

The project is located on public right of way with already established recreational amenities and open access to the general public. The proposed habitat enhancements will compliment the existing public use by creating educational opportunities, accommodation to wildlife viewing, and other recreational uses.

2. Discuss areas on the site that are critical for successfully implementing landscape or regional conservation plans. How will the project help to successfully implement the plans?

The proposed project will be the first component to be implemented within the WMP. Therefore, successful implementation of the project is critical to continuing to build public support for the overall WMP, which would provide significant habitat improvements for the area.

3. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other anthropogenic features. Do any surrounding areas detract from habitat values on the site?

As mentioned previously, the Sun Valley watershed is a highly urbanized area (refer to item IV.A.1). The project site is immediately surrounded by land uses of residential, retail/commercial, and a gravel pit (see Figure 5). If or when the adjacent pit is filled to the existing street level, it will most likely be developed into a commercial or industrial site.

The surrounding urban area limits the habitat values to be contained within the site. However, the success of the proposed project may influence the development of the adjacent pit into a similar multiuse flood control and habitat enhancement facility. This would expand the habitat benefits of the project. Also, with implementation of the Sun Valley WMP, more habitat creation would be developed in some of the existing urbanized areas, thereby further expanding the habitat benefits for the region.

4. ***Describe compatibility with adjacent land uses.***

   An exhausted gravel pit is located adjacent to the proposed project site. As a part of the WMP, Public Works proposes to convert the pit into a storm water retention facility, including a storm water treatment wetland. The treatment wetland would be designed to provide wildlife habitat. Opportunities to provide habitat linkages between this pit and project site will be explored in the WMP.

A5. Viability/sustainability of habitat improvements (40)

1. ***Describe any future operation, maintenance and monitoring activities planned for the site. How would these activities affect habitat values?***

   The City of L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks will assume operation and maintenance responsibilities for the landscaping and habitat improvements. Therefore, the project will provide on-site operation and maintenance staff to ensure the viability/sustainability of these improvements.

   It is expected that the proposed native landscaping will be require minimal maintenance and should be self-sustained within five years. However, the landscape and habitat features of the project will be consistently monitored throughout the project life (about 40 years).

   In addition, the project includes extensive in-stream water quality and groundwater quality monitoring. The results of the regular monitoring will help protect and sustain the habitat enhancements.

2. ***Does the site contain large areas of native vegetation or is it adjacent to large protected natural areas or other natural landscapes (for example, a large stand of blue-oak woodland adjacent to public land)?***

   As described in items V.A4.3 and 4, the current site conditions do not consist of or are not adjacent to large areas of native vegetation.

   However, the adjacent pit could potentially be developed into such a native vegetation area.

3. ***Is the watershed upstream of the site relatively undisturbed or undeveloped and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future? Describe its condition.***

   The upstream area consists of urban developments including gravel mines and landfills, numerous auto-dismantling operators, and other industrial and commercial land uses making up more than 60 percent of the watershed.

   The project could potentially result in the retrofit of the upstream highly developed watershed into a more natural, undeveloped area. This retrofit is part of the WMP objectives.

4. ***Describe any populations of native species or stands of native habitats that show representative environmental settings, such as soil, elevations, geographic extremes, or climatic conditions (for example, the wettest or most northerly location of a species within the state.)***

   Not applicable.

B. (340xF_a points) Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Not applicable.

VI. (320 points) Miscellaneous Benefits and Quality of Proposal

A. Size of request, other contributions, number of persons benefiting, cost of grant per benefited person (40)

Estimated Total Project Cost	$4.87 million
Amount of FPCP Grant Funds Requested	$3 million
Amount of Local Funds Contributed	$1 million
Amount of In-kind Contributions	$400,000
Additional Funding Sources	$470,000
Number of persons expected to benefit	1.27 million
Flood Protection Corridor Funds per person benefited.*	$2

(* Count as beneficiaries those receiving flood benefits, recreational users of habitat areas protected by the Project, and consumers of food products from agricultural areas conserved by the Project.)

B. Quality of effects on water supply or water quality (90)

1. ***Will water stored by the project provide for any conjunctive use, groundwater recharge, or water supply benefit?***

   The proposed project will provide not only quick relief of flooding, but also other benefits such as reduced stormwater pollution, increased groundwater supply, recreational opportunities, community beautification and education, and habitat enhancements. The project has the capacity to collect and store water generated upstream from up to a 50-year frequency rainfall (FEMA 100-year flood. On an average year, the project will provide for approximately 40 acre-ft of groundwater recharge to help replenish our diminishing supplies and decrease our dependency on imported water.

   Also, success of this pilot project will spur large-scale replication, providing a more dramatic increase in our water supply.

2. ***Does the project fence cattle out?***

   Not applicable; the project site is located in an urban environment.

3. ***Does the project pass water over newly developed fresh water marsh?***

   Not applicable; a fresh water marsh does not exist in or near the project area.

4. Does the project trap sediments?

The catch basin inserts and underground treatment units of the project trap the sediments associated with all upstream stormwater runoff (up to a FEMA 100-year flood), thus preventing further pollution downstream. According to the *Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Control Program*, suspended sediments constitute the largest mass of pollutant loading to receiving waters from urban areas. The proposed project will help reduce this nonpoint source and protect the Los Angeles River's threatened beneficial uses such as aquatic life, recreation, municipal water supply, and groundwater recharge.

C. Quality of impact on underrepresented populations or historic or cultural resources (60)

1. Does the project benefit underrepresented populations? Explain.

According to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the under-served Sun Valley community is the most park poor area within Los Angeles (a park poor city in itself). At the same time, Sun Valley consists of the most landfills within L.A. and dense amounts of auto-dismantling facilities. The degraded conditions in Sun Valley are such that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has recently gone to the extent of giving this area the highest priority in inspection and clean-up efforts.

This community, majority of Hispanic background (Census 2000), has suffered through not only the conditions mentioned in the paragraph above, but also well over 30 years of chronic flooding (see section IV.A.2). The proposed Park Multiuse Project will serve this community by addressing these issues of flooding, recreational and habitat enhancements, and water quality improvements.

Also, by involving the community at the very beginning of our planning process, we have empowered them to direct and choose the solutions to the various problems within the watershed, one of which solutions is this proposed project. These improvements are expected to improve the quality of life for the residents of Sun Valley. These residents will learn to expect more of themselves and the agencies that serve them and start on the road to environmental justice.

2. Are historical or cultural resources impacted by the project? Explain.

The project does not impact any historical or cultural resources.

D. Technical and fiscal capability of the project team (60)

1. ***Does the project require scientific or technical expertise, and if so, is it provided for in the grant proposal?***

   The design of the proposed project would require the technical expertise of a licensed engineer and the habitat aspects would require a biologist, ecologist, and landscape architect. An engineering consultant company is currently working on the design of the project, including the landscaping and habitat enhancement portions. Public Works and the SVWSG will review all scientific and technical deliverables by the consultant. Public Works acting on behalf of the County of Los Angeles Flood Control District has provided the funding for the design of the project.

2. ***Grant funds will be available in phases. What monitoring and reporting mechanisms are built into your administrative plan to track progress, initiation, and completion of successive phases?***

   The proposed project will be implemented in one phase. The project manager, who will provide monthly progress reports and schedule updates as necessary, will monitor this phase. He will also oversee the construction of the project and work closely with participating parties involved with this project to ensure the project completion, timeline, and budget.

   In addition, as part of the stakeholders process, Public Works will provide the community and participating agencies and organizations with monthly progress updates at the monthly stakeholder meetings or through other forms of public outreach such as the Sun Valley Watershed website or newsletter. Keeping the stakeholders informed and working with them throughout the project process will expedite the project schedule and ensure its successful completion.

3. ***Please outline your team's management, fiscal and technical capability to effectively carry out your proposal. Mention any previous or ongoing grant management experience you have.***

   <u>Management</u>

   The Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project has the participation and oversight of Mr. Don Wolfe, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Works, and Mr. Brian Sasaki, Deputy Director. Its daily project activities are managed by Mr. Vik Bapna, Senior Engineer, head of the Los Angeles River Watershed Section in the Watershed Management Division, and supported by one or more of his staff. The project has

both the support and participation of County Board of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, represented by his deputy, Ms. Maria Chong-Castillo. Form the City of Los Angeles, the project has the participation and support of the City Councilmember Alex Padilla, represented by his deputy Mr. Mark Dierking, Councilmember Ruth Galanter, represented by her deputy, Peter Brown, the Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Manuel Mollinedo and his Superintendent of operations in the Valley Region, Kevin Regan, and the head of the City's Stormwater Management Program, Mr. Shahram Kharaghani. From the Regional Water Quality Control Board, we have the participation of Ms. Wendy Phillips, Section Chief, Stormwater Section. From the TreePeople non-profit organization, we have the participation of its founder, Mr. Andy Lipkis, and its TREES Project Manager, Rebecca Drayse.

Mr. Vik Bapna is the Public Work's project manager. He has over 12 years of engineering experience, all of which is with the Public Works. Over the years, he has managed other projects and studies including implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan, Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds Optimization Project, Dominguez Gap Wetland Development Project, and the Tujunga Wash Restoration Project. Mr. Bapna is also currently the project manager for the overall Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan and has been working closely with this project for the past three years.

Fiscal

Public Works, along with the Sun Valley Stakeholders Group (SVWSG), is committed to implementing the proposed project. Public Works' source of funds are from the Los Angeles County Flood Control Benefit Assessment. The funds contributed by TreePeople would be from the Murray-Hayden Proposition 12 grant of $470,000, which has been dedicated to the implementation of the Park Multiuse Project.

Public Works manages over $40 million in construction projects per year. A portion of this amount regularly goes towards similar watershed management or multiuse projects within the County of Los Angeles.

Technical

Public Works hired a consultant team for the design of this project. Public Works staff and the SVWSG, including agency representatives, will review all technical work by the consultant.

E. Coordination and cooperation with other projects, partner agencies, and affected organizations and individuals (80)

1. ***List cost sharing and in-kind partners and any other stakeholders involved with your project and indicate the nature of their contribution, if any. Address the team's ability to leverage outside funds.***

   Because this project meets multiple objectives and provides multiple benefits, it is eligible for many funding opportunities. The project's efficient resource management allows for the biggest bang for the buck. Recognizing this, along with the importance of this project's success for future watershed management implementation within Sun Valley, various stakeholders partnered or will partner with Public Works on this project.

   TreePeople, a non-profit organization, is dedicating $470,000 from a Murray-Hayden Proposition 12 grant towards above ground restoration of the project, including recreational and habitat enhancements, and educational opportunities. The City of L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks supported the project from its conception and agreed to provide maintenance costs associated with the landscaping, recreational, and habitat enhancement features of the project. The City of L.A. Department of Public Works realizes the stormwater quality improvement value of the project (especially with respect to Total Maximum Daily Loads regulations) and has accepted the maintenance responsibilities of the flood protection and water treatment facilities within the project site. The City of L.A. Department of Water and Power, along with the Upper L.A. River Area Watermaster, promotes the groundwater recharge feature of the project and may be willing to share in the water quality monitoring responsibilities, including the in-line water quality monitoring devices and the groundwater monitoring well.

2. ***Does your project overlap with or complement ongoing activities being carried out by others (such as CALFED, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, the Delta levee program, local floodplain management programs, the Reclamation Board's Designated Floodway program, or a multiple objective regional or watershed plan)? If so, indicate any coordination that has taken place to date or is scheduled to take place in the future.***

   The Park Multiuse Project significantly complements the overall regional watershed management plan being developed for the Sun Valley Watershed. The goals of the Park Multiuse Project meet the

exact goals of the overall plan. These goals are best stated in the SVWSG mission statement of "solving the local flooding problem while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, providing recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution."

CALFED, by providing partial funding towards the development of the overall regional watershed management plan, recognizes that the plan meets the CALFED goals and objectives. Conceptualized as part of that plan, the proposed project, therefore, also complements CALFED activities. In addition, our education program increases public awareness in Southern California of the area's dependence on imported water and this its close links to and immediate impact on the Bay-Delta and other areas of the state and region.

3. ***Will this application, if approved, begin the next phase of a previously approved project or advance an ongoing project substantially toward completion?***

   This project would be the first step towards implementation of long-term watershed management efforts within the Sun Valley Watershed. It would be the first step towards physically meeting the goals of the SVWSG and finally addressing the chronic flooding problem along with other community ailments, such as the lack of habitat. The implementation of the rest of the overall Sun Valley Watershed Plan hinges on the success of this proposed pilot demonstration project.

   The CALFED program provided $430,000 towards the development of the overall Sun Valley Watershed Plan. The Sun Valley Park Multiuse Project is part of this overall plan, and its construction will begin the shift from a planning phase to an implementation phase, taking the SVWSG substantially closer to completing our mission and providing tangible, measurable results.

4. ***Describe how the proposal demonstrates a coordinated approach among affected landowners, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. If other entities are affected, is there written support for the proposal and a willingness to cooperate?***

   The coordination between the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders resulted in the birth of this project. The stakeholders include various City agencies, community organizations, political leadership, business concerns, regulating agencies, schools, state agencies, non-profits, and the County of Los Angeles. Formed in November of 1998, this group met consistently through the years and has progressed from

evaluating whether watershed management techniques would work in Sun Valley, to developing and implementing short-term solutions to the flooding, then to developing a long-term overall plan for the Sun Valley Watershed and possible pilot projects, and now to implementing the first stormwater management project in the watershed. Throughout this process, we have had intense public outreach efforts to educate the community about watershed management alternatives and their potential benefits, to develop community support for non-traditional solutions to flooding, and to provide the community with a voice to shape the outcome of their watershed.

To meet the community's needs, the SVWSG derived the proposed project by evaluating possible project sites that would enable quick implementation and effective flood control using watershed management techniques. Looking over all the available public sites within the watershed and communicating with the respective landowners, the Sun Valley Park and Recreation Center best fit the criteria and was then chosen as the site for the first stormwater management project. Public Works engineers then created a concept design at this site and worked with respective stakeholders to incorporate their concerns and comments. For example, Public Works incorporated additional groundwater quality protection mechanisms into the design upon the Department of Water and Power's concern of possible pollution transport into the groundwater. This stakeholder process creates maximum support for the project by working through any potential roadblocks, and allows for smooth implementation of the project.

Written documentation expressing support of the proposed project can be found in past SVWSG meeting notes, which are posted on the Sun Valley Watershed website at www.sunvalleywatershed.org. Additional letters of support written for the overall WMP (for a previous Proposition 13 grant) is included in Attachment D.